

Appl. No. 10/080,150
Amdt. dated 08/17/2004
Reply to Office Action of 05/20/2004

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed 05/20/2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and rejected claims 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and indicated allowable subject matter in claims 3 and 12. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

2. The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Garrett (US 4,518,078).

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 6, and 10 to include all elements of claims that the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter as discussed below. Claims 2 and 11 are cancelled. Applicant respectfully submits that all remaining claims are now allowable as a result of amendment.

3. The Examiner rejects claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Meador (US 5,802,993).

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 6, and 10 to include all elements of claims that the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter as discussed below. Claim 15 is cancelled. Applicant respectfully submits that all remaining claims are now allowable as a result of amendment.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

6. The Examiner rejects claims 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garrett (US 4,518,078) in view of Brooks (US 4,141,458).

Applicant relies on the patentability of the claims from which these claims depend to traverse the rejection without prejudice to any further basis for patentability of these claims based on the additional elements recited.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The Examiner objects to claims 3 and 12 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicates that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 10 to include all of the limitations of dependent claims 3 and 12 and any intervening dependent claims and cancelled claims 2, 3, 11, 12, and 15. Applicant respectfully requests that independent claims 1 and 10 and all claims that depend therefrom be allowed.

Applicant has amended independent claim 6 and cancelled claims 7 and 8. Claim 6 as amended includes the element of --a heating element located within the pressure vessel between the vessel rails such that the upper surfaces of the vessel rails are above the heating element

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when the vessel rails are in the first position and below an upper surface of the heating element when the vessel rails are in the second position--. Applicant submits that claim 6 as amended is allowable for the same reasons as claims 3 and 12. Applicant respectfully requests that independent claim 6 and all claims that depend therefrom be allowed.

Conclusion

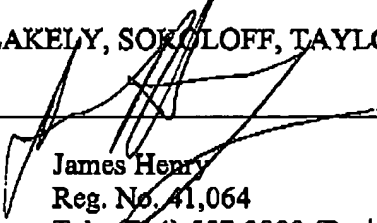
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 08/17/2004

By


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